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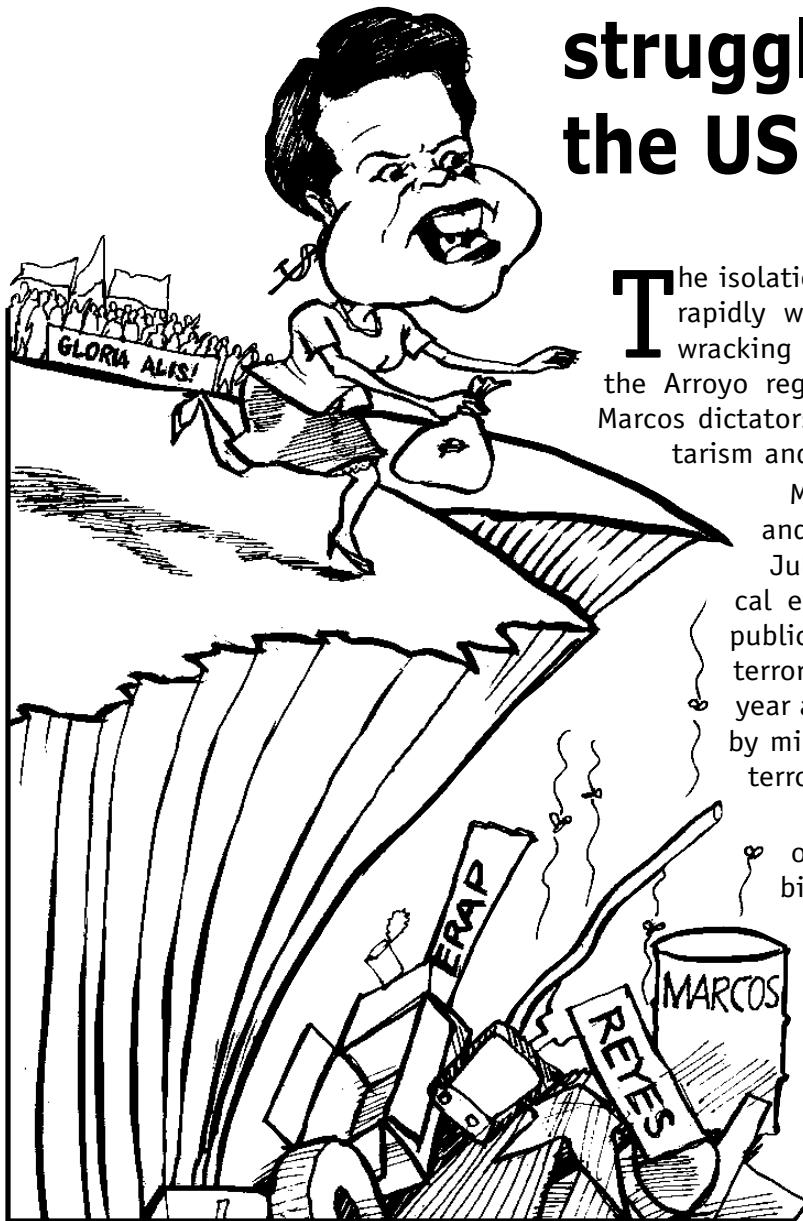
Bayan

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Editorial

Intensify the people's struggle to overthrow the US-Arroyo regime



The isolation of the US-Arroyo regime from the people is rapidly worsening. An intense political crisis is now wracking the ruling state, boding the early demise of the Arroyo regime, the same way the Estrada regime and Marcos dictatorship were ousted due to their puppetry, militarism and corruption.

Massive cases of corruption both in Malacañang and the AFP, which were brought to light by the July 27 military uprising and by Arroyo's political enemies are now being unearthed before the public. The Arroyo regime's responsibility for the terrorist bombing in Davao in the first half of the year as well as the damage and destruction wrought by militarization in the countryside due to Arroyo's terrorist all-out war are likewise being dredged up.

The broad masses of the people are thoroughly incensed by the Arroyo couple's cases of big-time corruption as well as those of the personalities close to them, especially since Arroyo's regime came to power through an uprising launched by millions of people opposed to the corruption of the Estrada government.

This fuels the Filipino people's rising anger over the Arroyo regime's puppetry and militarism. The economic crisis, the destruction of productive forces and the

Highlights of this issue...

The Jose Pidal scandal

PAGE 3

NPA seizes 22 firearms

PAGE 4

Soldiers defect to the NPA in Agusan

PAGE 5

lives of the toiling masses have worsened as a consequence of the pro-imperialist and antipeople policies of the puppet republic under the Arroyo regime. The latter has paved the way for escalating US military intervention and ordered the intensification of militarization at the prodding of the US, resulting in ever-growing cases of human rights violations.

Under the leadership of the legal national-democratic forces, the people continue to go all-out in opposing the puppet and militarist policies of the US-Arroyo regime. The regime has sustained severe blows from the actions of patriotic and democratic forces opposed to the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), which allows the US military to use the entire country as one large military base; against the Balikatan war exercises which pave the way for more extensive US military intervention in the Philippines; and against Arroyo's blind support for the US' wars of aggression and its occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Likewise, the people protest

the Arroyo regime's failure to put a stop to successive increases in the prices of oil, water and electricity rates. The Arroyo regime is further isolated from workers and government employees because it refuses to pave the way for raising their minimum wages and salaries in the face of continued hikes in the prices of basic goods and services.

The peasant masses hold the Arroyo regime accountable for the absence of genuine land reform, and worse, for the reconcentration of land in the hands of landlords of the old and new types. A most striking example is the regime's facilitation of Eduardo Cojuangco's seizure of several tens of thousands of hectares of farm land and his absolute control over hundreds of thousands of hectares more, which he has converted to cassava plantations. Arroyo has severely offended the peasantry by allowing the large-scale onslaught of genetically-modified plants into farms, yielding enormous profits for foreign agribusiness corporations while eradicating the peasants' natural crops and destroying the environment.

At the same time, the peasant masses are also at the forefront of struggles to oppose rising militarization in the countryside. They have been the principal victims of the all-out war that Arroyo has declared and which has been directed at none other than the peasant masses. Arroyo was met with intense fury when she pinned a medal on Col. Jovito Palparan of Mindoro—her regime's paragon of terrorism.

The intense crisis is resulting in escalating intrigues and infighting within the ranks of reactionaries, which in turn lead to further violence especially since no one has emerged with a clear edge in the 2004 presidential race and the factional, national and social issues causing unrest across the entire nation are mounting. The reactionary opposition is in the thick of plotting various maneuvers and schemes, including coups d'état or destabilization, and even resorts to insults to cause Arroyo's immediate resignation and prevent her from using her position to win the 2004 election.

It is but fitting for the Party and the revolutionary forces it leads to exploit the exceedingly favorable situation by further invigorating the mass movement, mass struggles and propaganda work, further expanding the revolutionary united front and further intensifying tactical offensives.

The democratic forces will further advance mass struggles and large-scale street mobilizations against the Arroyo regime's puppetry, militarism and corruption to press for the ouster of Gloria Arroyo. In combination with sweeping agitation and propaganda work, it is most important to put stress on conducting intensive propaganda and further organizing and mobilizing the masses in bar-

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Contents

Editorial

Intensify the people's struggle to overthrow the US-Arroyo regime 1

Jose Pidal

3

Victorious NPA offensives

4

AFP soldiers encouraged to join revolutionary movement 5

Soldiers defect to the NPA 5

Party leadership in the locality 6

Ka Leo 8

Armed struggle in Iraq 9

News

11

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rios, factories, communities, schools and streets.

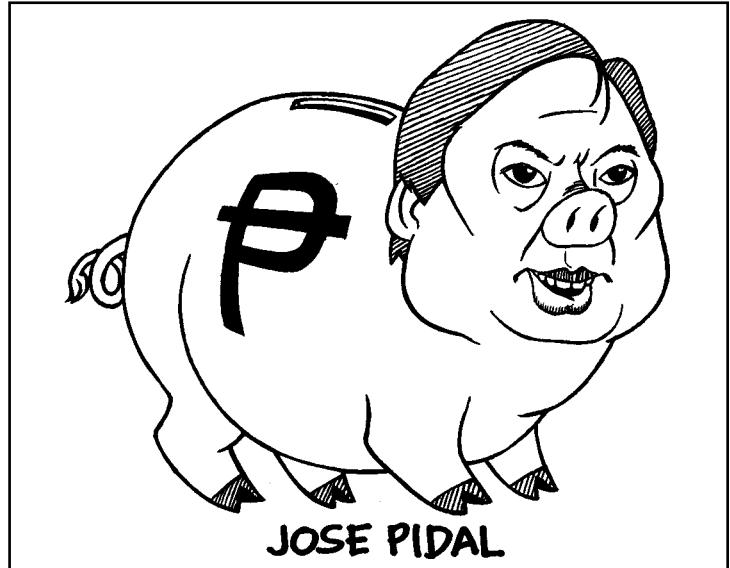
Arroyo's extreme isolation encourages ever-growing numbers of forces ready to unite with the patriotic and democratic forces to take action against the regime. We must pay attention to linking up with, mobilizing and organizing the patriotic forces who are becoming cognizant of Arroyo's shameless puppetry. They include employees of the reactionary government and the forces of the reactionary military and police, as well as their immediate superiors in the lower ranks who are restive, whose consciousness has been raised and who have launched protests in the face of the worsening anomalies in the government and its armed forces now being exposed.

We exploit and intensify rifts between rival reactionary factions, and even within the armed forces of the reactionary state. It is correct for us to link up temporarily with other reactionaries to isolate the principal enemy in power. Nevertheless, we should not allow the situation to be exploited by big-time criminal murderers and plunderers of the people who remain unrepentant and have not yet been completely held accountable nor allow the despised remnants of the Marcos and Estrada cliques to hold sway with their views, stage a comeback or seize power. We must continue to isolate, repudiate and oppose them.

Simultaneously, the Party calls on the New People's Army to intensify and persevere in launching tactical offensives against the armed forces of the reactionary state as a response to the reactionary military's rapid shifting of forces to priority guerrilla fronts; to make them pay for the Arroyo regime's rising fascist terrorism in the countryside and cities; and to oppose US armed intervention in the country. More frequent and stronger tactical offensives by the NPA will bring about a significant intensification of the political crisis of the entire reactionary ruling system.

In the face of the intensifying crisis, the tactical steps we have taken and the acceleration of our tasks to take advantage of the excellent situation, it is important for us to explain to our forces and the people what the very roots of this present crisis are, and the need for thoroughgoing revolutionary social change to decisively eradicate these roots. Towards achieving our goal of resolutely resolving the people's basic problems and realizing total victory, we prepare for and look beyond the downfall of this and other succeeding reactionary regimes.

AB



Quarrel between thieves

Lacson exposes Arroyos' ill-gotten wealth

It takes a thief to really know a thief. This became quite obvious when Sen. Panfilo Lacson demonstrated on September 1 that the Arroyo couple has the same penchant for thievery as himself and his godfather Joseph Estrada.

Seven more secret bank accounts containing P168 million stolen by the couple were disclosed by Lacson, in addition to the five bank accounts containing a total of P132 million that he first exposed.

These bank deposits are under the names of "Jose Pidal," alias of Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo (the president's husband); Victoria Toh, the First Gentleman's secretary and mistress; and relatives of Toh. Taken together, the Arroyo couple's ill-gotten wealth so far uncovered comes to P260 million. This is exclusive of accounts that have yet to be discovered both within the country and abroad.

According to Lacson, the amount comes from P270.8 million contributed to Gloria Arroyo's 2000 electoral campaign which was intentionally concealed and left undeclared. The total amount of contributions were said to have come to P321 million but Arroyo reported having spent only P50 million to the Commission on Elections.



Aside from the amounts that the Arroyos deposited in secret bank accounts, some also went into the Lualhati Foundation, a front organization used by the couple as a conduit for ill-gotten funds.

To further conceal the true source of these hundreds of millions of pesos, over P18 million of it was first taken out of the country and later deposited in the bank accounts of "Jose Pidal" from various Hong Kong banks.

Maneuvers between the rival camps have been intense since the secret bank accounts were exposed. On August 26, Malacañang personnel abducted Miguel Arroyo's erstwhile trusted aide Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay from a safehouse in Tagaytay City. It was Mahusay who testified that his former boss and Jose Pidal are one and the same person. Mahusay recanted his sworn statement, but the twists and turns in his new story line have only served to further implicate the Arroyos.

In struggling to get himself off the hook, Mike Arroyo made a ludicrous move: suddenly, he presented his younger brother Ignacio and made him admit that he was Jose Pidal. No one, however, took this absurd move seriously.

According to Lacson, who has also been charged with maintaining millions of dollars in secret bank accounts as well as other assets in the US, he is poised to come up with more explosive exposés and more witnesses against the Arroyos.

Even as plunderer continues to hurl accusations against fellow plunderer, the infighting among factions vying for power is mounting. There are growing possibilities that the Arroyo government will collapse from the sheer weight of the anomalies and rottenness being disclosed, aside from its outright puppetry and militarism. The legal and democratic forces must promptly and decisively take action to firmly lead and advance the people's struggles, define the progressive stand and line with respect to developments and actions, and prevent an equally rotten, puppet and fascist regime from succeeding Arroyo's tottering regime. AB

NPA seizes 22 firearms in raids and ambushes

THE New People's Army (NPA) seized 22 high-powered firearms in victorious tactical offensives launched in various parts of the country in August and September. Seven enemy forces were killed and six wounded in these offensives.

In Compostela Valley. A soldier was killed and four wounded when Red fighters ambushed soldiers of the 45th Scout Ranger Company on patrol in Barangay Andap, New Bataan on September 4.

In Bukidnon. Red fighters of the Ernesto Roa Command attacked a detachment of the 8th IB Bravo Company in Valencia City on August 28. The NPA confiscated six M14s, six garands, an M16 and two carbines. The raid was accomplished without a single shot being fired since it was timed to coincide with the reactionary soldiers' mealtime.

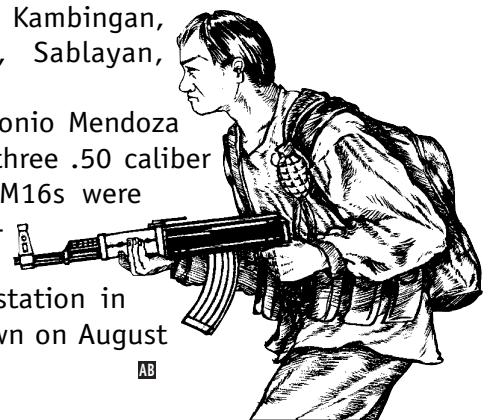
In Masbate. The NPA detonated a bomb on a vehicle carrying a group of police and military elements in Sitio Sugong, Barangay Lagta, Baleno town. Two policemen and three CVO elements were killed. The troops were reinforcements sent in response to the NPA's punishment of a retired policeman.

In Camarines Sur. The NPA raided the PNP Kababayhan Center 6 in Barangay Carolina, Naga City at around 11:30 a.m. on September 2. One policeman was killed and two others wounded.

In Mindoro. The NPA seized 15 high-powered firearms in successive tactical offensives on August 19 and 20 in the two Mindoro provinces. According to Lucio de Guzman Command spokesperson Victor Rivero, the seized firearms include a 56 mm bazooka, an M203, pistols, ammunition and other military equipment.

On August 19, the NPA ambushed the Special Forces Company in Sitio Singco, Barangay Bukal, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro. Subsequently, they ambushed the 16th IB's "C" Company in Sitio Kambangan, Barangay San Agustin, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro.

In Quezon. The Apolonio Mendoza Command reported that three .50 caliber machine guns and two M16s were seized when they attacked a Philippine Navy vessel and Coast Guard station in Barangay Ungos, Real town on August 19.



AFP soldiers encouraged to join revolutionary movement

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is encouraging an even greater number of officers and soldiers of the reactionary government to join the revolutionary movement. In a four-page open letter dated September 4, CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal urged government troops to join the revolutionary movement or help it by spiriting away firearms from military armories and providing valuable information, aside from fulfilling other revolutionary tasks.

Ka Roger once again announced the establishment of the Lt. Crispin Tagamolila Movement (LCTM) within the AFP. The LCTM was named after a Philippine Military Academy graduate who joined the NPA in 1971 and was martyred in an encounter in Isabela in 1973. Ka Roger said that joining the LCTM was equivalent to taking a stand against the Arroyo regime's puppetry, corruption and all-out terrorist war.

Ka Roger wrote directly to junior officers and ordinary soldiers and elements of the AFP, PNP and CAFGU who, he said, likewise come from the poor, oppressed and exploited masses and are likewise oppressed by high-ranking officers within the military organization.

Ka Roger suggested various means for soldiers to help the revolutionary movement.

The first is to form secret study groups to study their grievances and link them to the basic problems of the Filipino people.

Ka Roger also suggested that the soldiers launch open struggles to assert their legitimate rights and welfare. "They may also put out open letters, form unions and use other possible democratic venues to assert their interests."

Ka Roger likewise invited the

officers and rank-and-file to diligently study the program of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) because of its superiority to the Magdalo Group's National Recovery Program in terms of its "comprehensiveness,

relevance and depth in addressing the fundamental problems of the Filipino people."

Ka Roger also told the junior officers and rank-and-file that they may avoid encounters with the NPA. If these cannot be avoided, he said, they may immediately declare a ceasefire and yield their arms to the NPA. "Dying for a rotten organization and a rotten system is just not worth it," says Ka Roger.

Ka Roger reminded them that the revolutionary movement ensures the rights of soldiers who have surrendered and humanely treats captured soldiers in accordance with international rules of war and humanitarian law. AB

AFP, CAFGU troops in Agusan del Sur defect to the NPA

NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos confirmed the defection to the NPA of two Philippine Army soldiers along with two CAFGU platoons under their command in Agusan del Sur on August 7. Before contacting the NPA, they confiscated weapons from three detachments in Barangays Binakalan and Mahayahay in San Luis town.

Cpl. Edward Querante and PFC Boboy Abdulhasad, both from the 29th IB "C" Company, along with seven CAFGU elements were assisted by the people's militia to safely enter NPA territory. They brought with them an M203, two M16s, two M14s and four garands. The others who were unable to contact the NPA were captured by the military.

According to Ka Oris, the soldiers and the CAFGU elements deserted because they could no longer stomach the threats and abuses of their officials, the delay or non-issuance of their food supplies and military equipment, salaries and allowances, and the abuse of women.

It will be recalled that in July, a squad of MNLF integrants and a group of CAFGU elements from the same company also deserted their units because of similar grievances.

Ka Oris called on all sincere and patriotic soldiers and officers of the AFP, PNP and CAFGU to unite with the people and expose the rottenness of the AFP. He added that they may also cooperate secretly with the masses or with NPA units or eventually join the people's army. AB

In Eastern Visayas

Excellent Party leadership in the locality

Proletarian leadership and the spirit of genuine democracy and revolutionary social change are very much alive in areas where Party branches are highly developed and self-reliant. The leadership of the Party and the mass organizations is very much felt in the sharpness of the political calls and the vigor of the community's response to them.

Such is the case in a barrio in Samar where the NPA has been active for more than 20 years and which is now under the people's Red political power. The local Party branch has been in existence for two decades.

Barrio organizing has reached a high level. Full-fledged mass organizations have been in existence now for two decades. Most of the poor and lower-middle peasants already belong to mass organizations. Only six people in the barrio have yet to be organized, and it is only because they are newcomers and the

organizers are still trying to get to know them better. The middle forces, including the rich peasants and barangay councilors have also been organized in the underground revolutionary movement.

At its current level, the local Party branch can sharply set the correct political line and the appropriate course of action in mass struggles. They are able to achieve this as a result of the Party branch's efforts to consult all the barriofolk and rally them behind the calls. The effective leadership of the branch and the mass organizations arises from

their analytical, timely and decisive response to the people's needs and *araba* or grievances. The people's warm response to calls for agrarian revolution and other mass struggles is thus ensured.

The community has achieved immense benefits from advancing agrarian struggles under the Party's leadership. The need to incur debts has been reduced due to the improvement of the peasant masses' livelihood. Usury in the barrio has been practically eradicated.

In times when some poor peasants experience hardship, especially in running out of rice supplies for consumption, rich peasants are encouraged to lend *palay* at virtually no interest.

The revolutionary movement in the barrio is also in the process of fine-tuning the campaign to lower the prices of commodities. At present, part of the program is to put in order policies balancing the correct prices of commodities and sufficient profits for store-owners.



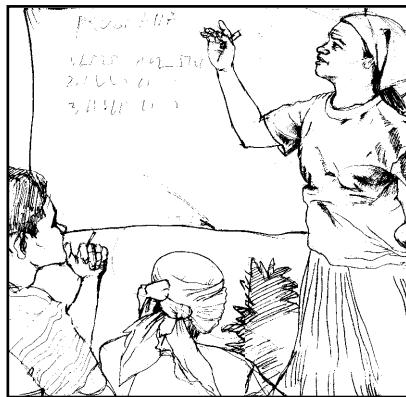
Drafting campaigns and mass struggles is an arduous process of grasping and analyzing the concrete conditions of the people, conducting vigorous consultations and forging firm unity.

The section committee of the Party, which includes the executive committee of the Party branch in the NPA unit operating in the area and the secretaries of the Party branches of adjacent barrios, usually sets a general call. Refinements or any changes to the plan and the actual manner of implementing the call of the section committee is carried out by the barrio branch.

The branch's first step is to consult the executive committees of the PKM, MAKIBAKA and KM chapters in the barrio. Based on data and the opinions they express, the branch intently studies whether or not the calls are appropriate to the actual conditions of the barrio.

At this stage, the branch usually submits to the section committee any necessary amendments to the call based on the results of the consultations. The section committee discusses them and usually includes the amendments of the branch in the general plan.

The next step is presenting the drafted plan to the chapter committees of the mass organizations for further refinement and to obtain their unity on the matter. This is where they plan the actual tactics to be used, including the means for achieving the unity of the entire membership of the mass organizations and the support of the barangay council. The last step is to convene a barrio assembly to formally unify the people on, and ratify, the new policies and the accompanying plans.



In advancing agrarian revolution in the barrio, demands are achieved through democratic consultation because such demands are usually addressed to the middle forces, most of whom are allies. The despotic landlord has long been banished from the barrio. Rich and middle peasants who provide credit, hire labor and own stores are friends of the revolutionary movement, and as such, are not dealt with antagonistically in agrarian struggles.

The entire process is not without its clash of ideas. There are instances, for example, when rich peasants are hesitant or are opposed to calls to raise the wages of farm workers, thus the need for an exchange of views. The expression of various views is channeled through group discussions not only within the full-fledged peasant mass organizations but also within the groups of middle forces, among others. Parts of the Revolutionary Guide to Land Reform are reviewed as the framework of the campaign, paying attention to the bases of the calls.

The quantitative bases for the calls are analyzed in campaigns to raise the wages of farm workers or the prices of farm products. For clarity, a typical peasant family, its earnings and expenses are cited as a case in point. The present

gross income, expenses and net earnings of rich peasants and the estimated reasonable reduction as a result of implementing the call, are also shown. This is to counter arguments claiming that rich peasants will lose all their profits if wages are raised. Clarifications are made regarding the fact that calculations are based on current prices, that rich peasants will still earn a reasonable amount of profit and that they will be able to afford the proposed raise. At present, the Party and the revolutionary movement ensure the existence of rich peasants as a stratum because they still play an important role in the livelihood of the peasantry.

As much as possible, efforts are made to arrive at a consensus among the people. If no consensus is reached by the time the barrio assembly is convened, the issues are voted upon. The fact that everyone complies with the majority decision is the result of the political education given by the revolutionary movement aside from the strong influence and high prestige enjoyed by the Party and the NPA in the area.

To implement the agreements and ensure the welfare of the poor, the branch and the mass organizations firmly oversee its implementation.

Due to the excellence of the branch's leadership and its firm solidarity with the community, even outsiders respect the decisions and comply with the policies within the area. For example, a rich peasant from another barrio once bought land in the area and implemented the old wage rate. He was firmly but politely confronted by the peasants, who explained to him the barrio's new agreement regarding wages. The rich peasant complied with the new rates. AB

Ka Leo in the countryside

In the latter half of the last decade, a significant number of students from the cities headed for the countryside to take part in the armed struggle. In a guerrilla zone in Albay, Ang Bayan was able to interview Ka Leo, one of the students who chose to work full time and are now among the struggling masses in the countryside.

It is heartening to see the big changes in Ka Leo since he set foot in a guerrilla zone six years ago. Most important of them is his greater enthusiasm and determination in the field of armed struggle.

Ka Leo came from the ranks of militant students in a university in Manila. He joined the Kabataang Makabayan in 1995.

He decided to work full time in an urban area in early 1997. But he first wanted to experience living with the Red army and the masses in the countryside before deciding whether his long-term perspective would be to work full time in the countryside or city. Thus, in the latter part of 1997, he entered a guerrilla zone in Albay for a three-month program of integration in the countryside.

In those three months, he realized the need in the countryside for youth with the capacity to provide political instruction. Comrades pointed out that he could play an important part in the work of the NPA, especially in teaching mass courses.

Those three months steeled his willingness to devote all his time to the arena of armed struggle. Thus, he did not hesitate to work full time in the countryside.

Being a city-bred beginner, Ka Leo underwent some difficulties in adjusting to new and difficult tasks, conditions and lifestyle.

The most difficult situation he had to face was when he got into a argument with a veteran comrade regarding his leadership as a

squad leader. For some time he was demoralized, but with the help of comrades and through self-criticism, he regained his enthusiasm and has since maintained it.

Under the guidance of proletarian ideology, Ka Leo sought to completely appreciate and cherish life in the countryside. Likewise,



he always strives to be on guard against, and overcome, petty bourgeois thoughts and habits and to internalize proletarian thinking and culture. He studied their area of operation and came to know the masses living there. He learned the correct way of relating with

the masses. According to Ka Leo, "it is important to practice simple living at all times." He added that one must never forget to respect the masses and always listen to their problems and opinions. Much more than weapons, it is the masses who can protect the people's army in the face of the enemy.

Learning the Bicol language has also been a challenge to Ka Leo. He diligently studied the language, which was important in his desire to reach out and understand comrades and the masses. Not long afterward, he was able to speak the language without faltering and now has a wide enough vocabulary.

Being a squad leader for two years was of great help in the development of his revolutionary practice. He led a squad composed mainly of young Red fighters and operated in an area where the mass movement was not yet consolidated. They experienced hardships and underwent sacrifices. However, according to Ka Leo, their achievements in organizing the masses in the barrios have strengthened his resolve and raised his militancy.

Ka Leo now contributes greatly to education and organizing work in his area of operation in Albay. And from his experiences in being a full-timer in the countryside, he now helps and supports other new full-time comrades in the people's army.

Ka Leo is but one among the youth who have decided to devote their strength and talents in serving the people by working full-time in the countryside. Youth like him play a very important role.

AB



Iraqi armed resistance spreading

As time passes, US imperialism is sinking deeper into the quagmire that is Iraq. After hurriedly attacking and occupying Iraq, US troops are now confronted with the all-sided resistance of the Iraqi people, deepening demoralization, confusion as well as the growing clamor of the American people to send their troops home. The people's condemnation and opposition to the war and continuing US occupation of Iraq continues to grow in the US.

The Iraqi people's armed and unarmed resistance against the colonial invaders is spreading and intensifying.

Small guerrilla groups attacking the overextended American troops are now emerging in various parts of the country.

For several months now, American and British troops have been trying hard to crush the emerging guerrilla movement. In encounters with better-armed troops, the Iraqis have repeatedly used the terrain to their advantage and demonstrated their will to fight. The armed Iraqis come from everywhere to hit the American troops. Not a day passes without the occupying troops suffering casualties. In fact, more American troops have been killed since Bush declared the end of "major combat operations" on May 1 than during the actual war of aggression. As of August 27, up to 333 Americans have been killed while 1,212 have been wounded. Compare this to the 138 killed during the US and UK invasion in April and May.

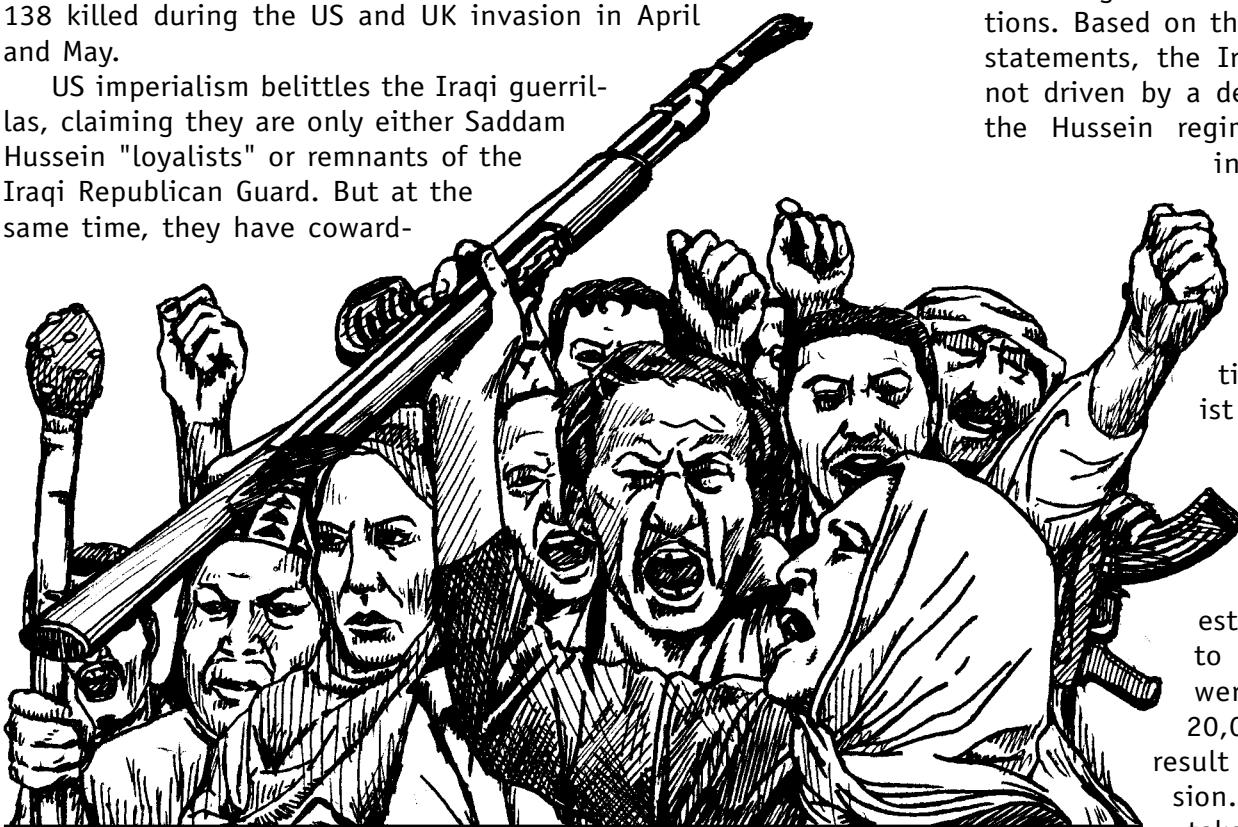
US imperialism belittles the Iraqi guerrillas, claiming they are only either Saddam Hussein "loyalists" or remnants of the Iraqi Republican Guard. But at the same time, they have coward-

ly pulled back their troops and positioned them outside the cities in order to avoid becoming easy targets for city-based guerrillas. Because the present 148,000 US forces in Iraq are unable to stop these attacks, the UK is now bringing in more troops and the US is also planning to send more American soldiers. Contrary to its previous stand not to give any role to the United Nations (UN) in the "reconstruction" of Iraq, the US plans to file a resolution in the UN to form a US-led "multinational peacekeeping force". However, the plan to add troops will only increase the number of dazed soldiers targetted by Iraqi guerrillas.

Simultaneous with the military actions, ordinary Iraqi people are launching intensive protest actions. Based on their actions and statements, the Iraqi groups are not driven by a desire to restore the Hussein regime but by an intense hatred and disgust for the arrogant, destructive and exploitative US imperialist occupation.

Worsening condition of the people.

It is estimated that up to 8,000 civilians were killed and 20,000 injured as a result of the invasion. This does not take into account





the thousands of people victimized during the occupation due to indiscriminate shooting by the occupying troops, the criminality that spread after the US occupied the cities and the overall social discord.

Millions of Iraqis suffer from severe hunger and unemployment which they did not experience under the Saddam Hussein regime. Indiscriminate US bombings have destroyed all facilities that provide basic services. Four months

pipeline to Turkey in anger.

Exploitation by US corporations. The current hardship in Iraq is made even worse by the greed of US corporations scrambling to grab the biggest benefits through the easiest means. The occupiers ordered a stop to the repair of hospitals and the restoration of general health services because "American advisers" suggested that it would be more appropriate to first subject all medical equip-

people of Fallujah launched a rally in April, 16 persons were shot dead by American soldiers. This also occurred in Mosul and Karbala where 14 people were killed. When the Iraqis brought their demands to the media, the US harassed or shut down the latter.

Out of fear, the American soldiers fire indiscriminately at anyone they suspect—including children, elderly folk, women and even members of the media. The arbitrary ransacking of homes, the arrest and harassment of anyone suspected of being a Saddam "loyalist"—which in the eyes of American troops includes almost all Iraqi males—is widespread.

The people of Iraq have all the reason and capacity to drive out the foreign occupying troops. It would be fine for them to unify the scattered armed groups and form a national guerrilla force that can deliver far greater blows on the invader.

have passed since the "end of the war" but electric power remains erratic and water supply is insufficient. The mere restoration of electric power requires \$13 billion. An additional \$16 billion is needed to restore the water supply. It is estimated that over \$100 billion is needed just to repair and restore all of the facilities destroyed by the US.

Worse, oil supply is inadequate. Despite its oil wealth and in spite of its former status as a big oil exporter, Iraq now imports oil to meet its needs. Iraq's oil wells produce less than a million barrels of oil a day—a far cry from the 2.8 million barrels before the occupation. It is estimated that Iraq would need to import an additional 750,000 barrels of oil per month just to meet its needs. When the Americans opened the oil wells in northern Iraq, they planned to export the oil, prompting the Iraqis to bomb the oil

ment and supplies to assessment by an American company. To expedite the process, Iraq will be forced to obtain supplies from American companies. Likewise, the US has put a stop to the operation of a Liberian company providing mobile phone services supposedly because it puts other companies at a disadvantage. In truth, the US just wants to put the telecommunications business under the lone control of Worldcom, a gigantic American monopoly that was involved in big-time fraud in the US.

Violent suppression of Iraqis. More violence and repression is the invaders' response to the Iraqi people's opposition and resistance. When Iraqis rallied in front of the office of Paul Bremer, the US administrator in Iraq, American soldiers rained bullets on the demonstration. Two rallyists died on the spot. When the

Inutile US puppet. The puppet interim council set up by the US in Iraq is inutile and has become a laughing stock. From the start, the majority of the people never supported the puppet and token council, and thus, at no time was it considered legitimate in the eyes of the Iraqis. The people loathe it because of its subservience to the occupiers and because it does not have any real power and strength.

In other places, the political structure has been destroyed. The widespread fighting precludes any hope in the foreseeable future that the US will be able to remedy the situation. Direct colonial military occupation by the US is at present the only way of governing Iraq, and there is no indication that this will change for a long time to come.

Growing opposition within the US and UK. At the same time, there is spreading anger and disgust among the people even within the US and UK over how the Bush regime and Blair doctored

intelligence reports to justify the invasion of Iraq. Opposition even among other reactionary forces of these countries is also mounting because of the growing number of soldiers being killed and the rising cost of maintaining them in Iraq.

In addition, there is a growing clamor in the US to bring the American troops home. Efforts to bring them home are now being led by no less than the soldiers' families. They see the vacuousness in the US military's much-vaunted high-tech war and the promise of zero casualties among the troops. The ghost of Vietnam is very much alive in the consciousness of the American people. It is not a distant possibility that these factors will force the Bush regime to withdraw from Iraq even before gaining completely control over it.

While the US occupation of Iraq drags on, its strategic weaknesses in the fields of politics and war are coming out in the open. This is a reflection of the unjustness of the imperialist occupation of Iraq. The US belittles the capacity of the broad masses of the Iraqi people to fight the occupation and will pay dearly for it.

The people of Iraq have all the reason and capacity to drive out the foreign occupying troops. It would be fine for them to unify the scattered armed groups and form a national guerrilla force that can deliver far greater blows on the invader. The situation in Iraq is exceedingly favorable to set up and rapidly strengthen a proletarian party that would lead the war for national liberation by wielding the armed struggle and by unifying all democratic and patriotic classes, sectors and religious sects in Iraq into an anti-colonial united front. AB

KARAPATAN-Negros condemned the torture by RPA-ABB elements of two suspected New People's Army (NPA) members in two incidents in Cadiz City on August 7 and 12.

In a statement sent to the media, KARAPATAN-Negros said their investigations have proven that two of the captives, Alexander Pelayo of Cadiz City and Rene Santisteban of San Carlos City, were tortured by RPA-ABB elements. The two others were identified as Rodney

Ilustrisimo, 20, and Richard Gayo, 26, both from Hacienda Pula, Barangay E. Lopez, Silay City.

Pelayo was hit with a rattan stick, kicked and hit with the butt of an M16 rifle. Not satisfied, the RPA men fired a gun near Pelayo's ear. Meanwhile, Santisteban was hit in the head. KARAPATAN said that the four captives were handcuffed, blindfolded and threatened with death while undergoing interrogation by their captors.

Al-Ghozi hunt a pretext to militarize Moro communities

THE National Democratic Front in Western Mindanao (NDF-WMR) strongly condemned the AFP's use of the hunt for escaped terrorist Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi as a pretext to push the all-out terrorist war in Mindanao and scuttle the peace talks between the Arroyo regime and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). In a statement on August 28, NDF-WMR spokesperson Adan Sindapan said that Al-Ghozi's escape from Camp Crame in July was stagemanaged to provide the AFP with an excuse to launch fierce military operations in Moro communities and violate the Moro people's human rights.

Sindapan disclosed that elements of Charlie Coy, Task Force Tabak of the 1st Infantry Division killed three unarmed civilians on August 7 when they attacked Barangay Bauyan, Sultan Naga Dimaporo, Lanao del Norte ostensibly to pursue Al-Ghozi. The AFP also burned down the houses and food supplies of

hundreds of civilians who fled during the shooting. Five out of eight non-combat MILF personnel abducted by soldiers from the area were summarily executed. They were identified as Mahmod Esmail, Jeran Ulanda, Gayson Ulanda, Sapra Bago and Siddiq Edris. They were first detained at the 1st Infantry Division headquarters in Upper Pulacan, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur before being killed. The other prisoners Sakib Esmail, Mohmin Abdul and Rasul Hasim have yet to be surfaced. Meanwhile, Hadji Yunos Esmail, Sakib Esmail's brother, was also abducted on August 19 in Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City.

The NDF-WMR called on all patriotic and progressive forces in Mindanao to expose and oppose the continuing abductions and summary executions of ordinary and innocent Moro civilians in the name of the "war against terrorism" pushed by the US-Arroyo regime.

Anakpawis pushes for GATT repeal

THE Anakpawis party-list group recently called on the Senate to repeal the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) advanced by Pres. Gloria Arroyo when she was still senator and ratified by the senate in 1994.

Anakpawis and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair Rafael "Ka Paeng" Mariano made the call in a forum in Quezon City on August 22.

He said that in the eight years the Philippines spent

within the GATT and World Trade Organization (WTO) framework, the country gained nothing but hardships. Several million lost their jobs, the trade deficit swelled to \$5.2 billion, and many farmers went bankrupt due to the dumping of cheap agricultural imports.

The country's repeal of GATT, said Anakpawis vice chair Carmen "Lola Mameng" Deunida, is the first step towards bolting the US imperialist-led WTO.

Order on ampalaya assailed

ANGER and resistance met a Department of Health (DOH) order to doctors and health workers to stop prescribing ampalaya-based medicines as supplementary drugs for diabetes.

Doctors and health workers say the order will merely worsen the situation of many diabetics who rely on such medicines because they could not afford expensive drugs manufactured by giant companies.

Many patients and even doctors have attested to the positive effect of ampalaya on the health of diabetics.

Doctors say that they see the hand of foreign drug companies behind the DOH order. The drug companies wish to disparage or disregard local herbal medicines because the latter have cut into the companies' sales and profits in the country. Herbal medicines earned up to P800 million in 2002.

Gen. Reyes resigns from post

GEN. Angelo Reyes resigned as Secretary of National Defense on August 28, just two days after he arrogantly said that he would never step down from his post.

Gen. Reyes is known as Pres. Arroyo's handler with respect to the implementation of the all-out war against the revolutionary movement and US imperialist policies like the Visiting Forces Agreement, Mutual Logistics Support Agreement and the Balikatan exercises, among others.

Gen. Reyes is the second official of the Arroyo government to resign after the failed mutiny of 300 junior officer and soldiers on July 27. Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines chief, Gen. Victor Corpus had earlier resigned.

Reyes' resignation is a desperate step to curb the severe attacks on the Arroyo administration. Reyes also wishes to evade accusations that he and Gen. Corpus were behind the bombings in Mindanao, and that he is likewise involved in various anomalies.

Armed resistance erupts anew in Nepal

THE armed struggle led by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) [CPN(M)] was rekindled after its peace talks with the Nepali monarchy collapsed on August 27.

On August 31, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) attacked a police station in Chapiya, 300 kilometers west of the capital Kathmandu. Four policemen were killed and weapons and ammunition seized in the

attack. Two other tactical offensives were launched by the PLA in other areas that same day.

The CPN(M) engaged in negotiations for seven months. The reactionary Nepali government, however, obstinately refused to remove the CPN(M) and organizations under its leadership from the list of "terrorists." The CPN(M) also criticized the US' intervention in the peace process.